

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring the performance of a character recognition system, the method comprising the step of:

(a) utilizing an average confidence score generated for a plurality of characters for to provide ongoing performance monitoring of the character recognition system, wherein

a confidence score indicates a level of confidence that a character is accurately recognized, and

utilizing the average confidence score further comprises:

determining a threshold confidence score, wherein the threshold confidence score represents a value greater than a minimum level of acceptable performance for the character recognition system and less than an expected level of performance for a new character recognition system,

comparing the average confidence score to the threshold confidence score, and indicating to an operator that the character recognition system is in need of service responsive to the average confidence score falling below the threshold confidence score.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of characters is recorded on at least one end user document, and the method further comprising the step of comprises:

(b) generating the average confidence score ~~from for~~ the plurality of characters ~~recorded on at least one end user document~~ prior to the utilizing step (a) the average confidence score.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein generating step (b) the average confidence score further comprises:

(b1) reading [[a]] one or more characters recorded on an end user document;
(b2) calculating ~~the a~~ confidence score for each of the one or more characters; ~~and~~
(b3) repeating steps (b1) and (b2) for each of a plurality of characters recorded on the end user document; and
(b4) averaging the confidence scores for the one or more characters with confidence scores ~~of~~ for all characters previously read over a last set number of end user documents.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 1, wherein responsive to the average confidence score falling below the threshold confidence score, the method further comprising the steps of comprises:

- (e) servicing the character recognition system; and
- (d) resetting the average confidence score ~~calculation~~.

8. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the at least one end user document is a standardized document.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the standardized document is a bank note or personal check.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of characters is a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) character.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the character recognition system is one of a magnetic ink character recognition system, an optical character recognition system, or a combined magnetic ink and optical character recognition system.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium ~~containing~~ programming instructions encoded with a computer program for monitoring the performance of a character recognition system, the computer program comprising the computer-executable instructions for:

(a) utilizing an average confidence score generated for a plurality of characters ~~for to~~ provide ongoing performance monitoring of the character recognition system, wherein a confidence score indicates a level of confidence that a character is accurately recognized, and

utilizing the average confidence score further comprises:

determining a threshold confidence score, wherein the threshold confidence score represents a value greater than a minimum level of acceptable performance for the character recognition system and less than an expected level of performance for a new character recognition system,

comparing the average confidence score to the threshold confidence score, and indicating to an operator that the character recognition system is in need of service responsive to the average confidence score falling below the threshold confidence score.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein the plurality of characters is recorded on at least one end user document, and the computer program further comprising the comprises computer-executable instructions for:

(b) generating the average confidence score ~~from~~ for the plurality of characters ~~recorded on at least one end user document~~ prior to the utilizing instruction (a) the average confidence score.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein generating instruction (b) the average confidence score further comprises instructions for:

- (b1) reading [[a]] one or more characters recorded on an end user document;
- (b2) calculating the a confidence score for each of the one or more characters; and
- (b3) repeating steps (b1) and (b2) for each of a plurality of characters recorded on the end user document; and
- (b4) averaging the confidence scores for the one or more characters with confidence scores of for all characters previously read over a last set number of end user documents.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 17 12, wherein responsive to the average confidence score falling below the threshold confidence score, the computer program further comprising comprises computer-executable instructions for:

- (e) servicing the character recognition system; and
- (f) resetting the average confidence score ~~calculation~~.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring the performance of a character recognition system, the system comprising:

means for reading a plurality of characters recorded on at least one end user document; and

a performance monitoring module ~~for generating an average confidence score for the plurality of characters that utilizes an average confidence score generated for a plurality of characters to provide ongoing performance monitoring of the character recognition system,~~ wherein

~~a confidence score indicates a level of confidence that a character is accurately recognized, and for utilizing the average confidence score for ongoing performance monitoring of the character recognition system~~

the performance monitoring module utilizes the average confidence score by determining a threshold confidence score, wherein the threshold confidence score represents a value greater than a minimum level of acceptable performance for the character recognition system and less than an expected level of performance for a new character recognition system,

comparing the average confidence score to the threshold confidence score, and indicating to an operator that the character recognition system is in need of service responsive to the average confidence score falling below the threshold confidence score.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47 36, wherein the means for reading the plurality of one or more characters comprises one of an optical scanner, a magnetic read head, or a combined optical scanner and magnetic read head.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring the performance of a character recognition system, the method comprising the step of:

(a) utilizing a median confidence score generated for a plurality of characters for to provide ongoing performance monitoring of the character recognition system, wherein a confidence score indicates a level of confidence that a character is accurately recognized, and

utilizing the median confidence score further comprises:

determining a threshold confidence score, wherein the threshold confidence score represents a value greater than a minimum level of acceptable performance for the character recognition system and less than an expected level of performance for a new character recognition system,

comparing the median confidence score to the threshold confidence score, and
indicating to an operator that the character recognition system is in need of
service responsive to the median confidence score falling below the threshold confidence
score.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the plurality of characters is
recorded on at least one end user document, and the method further comprising the step of
comprises:

(b) generating the median confidence score ~~from~~ for the plurality of characters
~~recorded on at least one end user document~~ prior to ~~the~~ utilizing step (a) the median confidence
score.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein generating step (b) the median
confidence score further comprises:

(b1) reading [[a]] one or more characters recorded on an end user document;
(b2) calculating ~~the~~ a confidence score for each of the one or more characters; and
(b3) ~~repeating steps (b1) and (b2) for each of a plurality of characters recorded on the~~
~~end user document; and~~
(b4) determining the median confidence score from the confidence scores ~~of~~ for the
one or more characters and confidence scores ~~of~~ for all characters previously read over a last set
number of end user documents.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the at least one end user document is a standardized document.

32. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein the standardized document is a bank note or personal check.

33. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein at least one of the plurality of characters is a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) character.

34. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein the character recognition system is one of a magnetic ink character recognition system, an optical character recognition system, or a combined magnetic ink and optical character recognition system.

35. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the plurality of characters is recorded on at least one end user document, and the performance monitoring module further generates the average confidence score for the plurality of characters prior to utilizing the average confidence score.

36. (New) The system of claim 35, further comprising:

means for reading one or more characters recorded on an end user document; and

a decode module that calculates a confidence score for each of the one or more characters,

wherein the performance monitoring module generates the average confidence score by averaging the confidence scores for the one or more characters with confidence scores for all characters previously read over a last set number of end user documents.

37. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the at least one end user document is a standardized document.

38. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein the standardized document is a bank note or personal check.

39. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein at least one of the plurality of characters is a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) character.

40. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein responsive to the median confidence score falling below the threshold confidence score, the method further comprises:

servicing the character recognition system; and

resetting the median confidence score.

41. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the at least one end user document is a bank note or personal check.

42. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein at least one of the plurality of characters is a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) character.

43. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the character recognition system is one of a magnetic ink character recognition system, an optical character recognition system, or a combined magnetic ink and optical character recognition system.